

SENATE BILL 1793

By Ketron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 24, Part 1, relative to minimum training
requirements for firefighters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 24, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

§ 4-24-1__ .

(a) Any full-time, part-time, or volunteer firefighter hired or accepted as a
firefighter on or after July 1, 2007, by a fire department recognized under title 68, chapter
102, part 3, must meet the following minimum training requirements:

(1) The firefighter must have previously completed or must complete
after joining the fire department a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of initial training
in firefighting procedures and techniques before being allowed to actively fight a
fire; and

(2) Within thirty-six (36) months after completing the initial training, the
firefighter must have completed or must complete after joining the fire
department the eighty-four-hour basic training course offered at the Tennessee
fire service and codes enforcement academy, or an equivalent course. A
firefighter who fails to complete the basic training must be suspended by the fire
department from actively fighting fires.

(b) The following firefighters are exempt from the training requirements of
subsection (a):

(1) Any firefighter in the fire service on July 1, 2007, and who entered the
fire service before June 30, 2002.

(2) Any firefighter who is certified by a medical doctor as medically or physically unable to complete the training requirements; however, the fire department may not allow these firefighters to fight any interior fire.

(c) Any firefighter in the fire service on July 1, 2007, and who was hired or accepted as a firefighter between July 1, 2002, and June 30, 2007, has until July 1, 2010, to show proof of completion of the minimum training requirements of this section or a valid medical exemption.

(d) The commission on firefighting personnel standards and education may issue any rules and take any other administrative action necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of issuing rules and taking other administrative actions, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it: for all other purposes it shall take effect on July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.